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PATENT

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being submitted *via* the USPTO EFS Filing System on the date shown below to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: January 24, 2007

/Casey L. Martin/  
Casey L. Martin

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Applicants: Eric J. Horvitz, *et al.*

Examiner: Thomas E. Shortledge

Serial No: 09/896,187

Art Unit: 2626

Filing Date: June 29, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR INFERRING INFORMATIONAL GOALS AND  
PREFERRED LEVEL OF DETAIL OF ANSWERS

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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**REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 14, 2006**

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Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and comments below.